

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
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SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAHINGEN
CINC USAF RAMSTEIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: NATO, MILI, AWACS, GW
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ON NEGATIVE SPD REACTION TO
AWACS FUNDING

1. TWO SHORT PRESS ITEMS IN THE DECEMBER 15 EDITIONS OF THE "FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU" AND THE "RHEINISCHE POST" INDICATED THAT SOME SPD DEPUTIES AND THE YOUNG SOCIAL-ISTS (JUSOS) HAVE WARNED THE FRG AGAINST THE PROCUREMENT OF AWACS. IN THE "RUNDSCHAU" ARTICLE, SPD DEPUTY PETER WUERTZ, WHO IS ON THE BUNDESTAG BUDGET COMMITTEE AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEFENSE MINISTRY FUNDING, WARNED THAT THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH MONEY FOR THE DM 6 BILLION SYSTEM. WUERTZ ADDED THAT INVESTMENT EXPENDITURES IN THE DEFENSE BUDGET HAVE ALREADY BEEN PLANNED PRACTICALLY UP TO THE 1980'S. HE ALSO SAID THE FRG COULD NOT CUT ANY SOCIAL PROGRAMS ON ACCOUNT OF AWACS.

2. THE "RHEINISCHE POST" REPORTED THAT THE JUSOS WORKING GROUP ON MILITARY AND SECURITY POLICY, CHAIRED BY JUSOS CHIEF WIECZOREK-ZEUL, HAD ANNOUNCED THAT THEY SAW A NEED NEITHER FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THE NEW EARLY WARNING SYSTEM -- SINCE ITS MISSION WAS ALREADY NOW
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BEING PERFORMED BY THE UTILIZATION OF EXISTING SYSTEMS --

NOR FOR AN INCREASE IN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. INSTEAD, THE JUSOS CALLED UPON NATO GOVERNMENTS, IN PARTICULAR THE FRG, TO TAKE DISARMAMENT INITIATIVES AND TO DEVELOP PROPOSALS FOR CHANGING ARMS PRODUCTION INTO CIVIL PRODUCTION.

3. THE "RHEINISCHE POST" ANSWERED ITS OWN ARTICLE WITH AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THE UTOPIANS" WHOSE BASIC THRUST WAS THAT THE BEST SOCIAL POLICY HAD NO PURPOSE IF THE COSSACKS CAME.

4. COMMENT: OPPOSITION FROM CERTAIN SPD DEPUTIES AS WELL AS THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS TO MILITARY PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS IN THE FRG IS NOTHING NEW. PLAYING TO THE PUBLIC BY BUDGET OR DEFENSE COMMITTEE MEMBERS REGARDING MILITARY INVESTMENT PROGRAMS HAS BEEN A FAVORITE TACTIC IN THE PAST, THE BEST EXAMPLE BEING THE FRG PRODUCTION DECISION ON THE MRCA TORNADO. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT AWACS OPPONENTS ARE ALREADY BEGINNING TO STAKE OUT THEIR POSITION FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD.
STOESSEL

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